defining the target area to encompass the onscreen location.

6. The method as claimed in claim **5** further comprising steps of:

receiving another touchscreen input at another onscreen location of the display; and

dynamically displacing the target area to encompass the other onscreen location.

7. A computer program product comprising code which, when loaded into memory and executed on a processor of a handheld electronic device, is adapted to display information on a touchscreen display of the wireless communications device by performing steps of:

determining a target area to be visually magnified; and

causing a shape-changing zone of the display to change shape in the target area to visually magnify information displayed in the target area.

8. The computer program product as claimed in claim **7** wherein the code is further adapted to perform steps of:

detecting that the device is operating in navigation mode in which a map of a current position of the device is displayed on the display of the device;

identifying the current position of the device onscreen; and

defining the target area to encompass the current position of the device onscreen.

9. The computer program product as claimed in claim **7** wherein the code is further adapted to perform steps of:

detecting a route on a map that is displayed on a display of the device;

identifying a starting point of the route and a destination point of the route;

defining the target area to encompass the starting point; and

dynamically redefining the target area as the target area is displaced over the route from the starting point to the destination point whereby shape-changing zones along the route change shape to visually magnify the route.

10. The computer program product as claimed in claim **1** wherein the code is further adapted to perform the steps of:

detecting a route on a map that is displayed on a display of the device; and

statically defining the target area as encompassing an entire onscreen length of the route.

11. The computer program product as claimed in claim **7** wherein the code is further adapted to perform the steps of:

receiving touchscreen input at an onscreen location of the display; and

defining the target area to encompass the onscreen location.

12. The computer program product as claimed in claim **11** wherein the code is further adapted to perform the steps of:

receiving another touchscreen input; and

dynamically displacing the target area to encompass the other touchscreen input.

13. A handheld electronic device comprising:

a shape-changing touch-sensitive display screen comprising an array of shape-changing zones that can be individually electrically actuated to expand into a convex shape defining an adaptive magnifying lens that visually magnifies an area of the display screen beneath the lens; and

a processor operatively coupled to memory for executing an application configured to present information on the touch-sensitive display screen of the device and for controlling actuation of the one or more shape-changing zones of the touch-sensitive display screen.

14. The handheld electronic device as claimed in claim **13** further comprising a radiofrequency transceiver for requesting and downloading map data for displaying a map on the touch-sensitive display screen.

15. The handheld electronic device as claimed in claim **14** further comprising a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver for determining a current position of the device and for supplying the current position to a map application executing on the processor in order to download and display the map of the current position on the touch-sensitive display screen, wherein the processor causes actuation of the shape-changing zones to form a lens above the current position to thereby magnify the current position on the map.

16. The handheld electronic device as claimed in claim **14** wherein the processor is configured to display a route on a map and to cause a plurality of shape-changing zones all along the route to concurrently expand into a magnifying lens.

17. The handheld electronic device as claimed in claim **14** wherein the processor is configured to display a route on a map and to sequentially actuate a plurality of shape-changing zones along the route to form a moving lens that moves along the route from a starting point to a destination point.

18. The handheld electronic device as claimed in claim **13** wherein one or more shape-changing zones are actuated at an onscreen location of the touch-sensitive display screen in response to touchscreen input received at the onscreen location.

19. The handheld electronic device as claimed in claim **13** wherein one or more shape-changing zones are actuated sequentially in response to receipt of multiple sequential touchscreen inputs due to touching and dragging over the display.

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